

Independence Medallion Ceremony

The Vietnam Era Veterans Medallion Program was approved by the Kansas Legislature and signed by the Governor. This program provides a Vietnam Era Medallion, Medal, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the State of Kansas to veterans who served on active duty in the United States military at any time between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. Since passage of the bill, the agency has honored over 5,400 Vietnam Era veterans and participated in 33 medallion ceremonies.



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Pictures of the Independence Medallion Ceremony

On June 20, 2015, over 1,200 people turned out to celebrate and observe 201 veterans receive their Vietnam medals, medallions, and certificates. In addition, because of this great event we had over 199 more applicants that want theirs mailed.

Independence Medallion Ceremony



Kansas Veterans' Home



Sara Werner, Director of the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob Fettke, Kansas Department of Commerce, Steve Dunkin, Kansas Veterans' Home, and Tonya Villar, Board of the Winfield Area Chamber of Commerce.

June is Business Appreciation Month. Each year, the chamber nominates businesses from within its membership for recognition through the Kansas Department of Commerce. This year, the Winfield Chamber nominated the Kansas Veterans' Home and, in partnership with Winfield Main Street nominated Eagle Nest Inc. Eagle Nest Inc. was recognized as a regional award winner. From the Winfield Chamber of Commerce

For information on Admission and Eligibility for the Kansas Veterans' Home and the Kansas Soldiers' Home click on the links below.

[Admission and Eligibility](#)

For more information about each nursing home click on the links below

[Soldiers' Home](#)

[Veterans' Home](#)

KCVAO
QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2015

Kansas Soldiers' Home 150th Dodge City Days 2015



Fort Dodge, home of the Kansas Soldiers Home, was honored to be the theme of the 55th annual Dodge City Days. This annual 10 day festival plays host to over 50 events including a parade, concerts, a rodeo, professional bull riding, races, barbeque competitions, and other community events. Dodge City Days is well known nationwide and is the second largest festival in Kansas. Approximately 100,000 individuals attend at least one Dodge City Days event.



On July 25th, the Kansas Soldiers Home was pleased to have several dozen residents and employees participate on 2 floats in the Dodge

City Days parade. With Dodge City Days celebration theme being a "Tribute to Fort Dodge", every one of the approximate 100 floats was decorated in accordance with that theme. Residents that rode on the float commented "we're proud to have been soldiers of this country." One resident (Wayne Barth) commented on how beautiful it was that residents, staff and families all came together for this event. He stated "we're a great team!"



On July 28th, the KSH hosted a Salute the Troops event. Dozens of area volunteers came together and created a fun and welcoming atmosphere for KSH and community residents. Fort Riley mounted color guard were on hand and set up an 1870's encampment and provided demonstrations of the 1800's



hamburgers were served and the Dodge City Cowboy Band provided musical entertainment. Governor Brownback was present to greet residents and delivered a brief speech outlining plans and projects for the KSH in the coming months.

KCVAO Mobile Services

The KCVAO Mobile Offices are Ready to Assist!

The Kansas Enhanced Veteran Services Program is a proven outreach program that makes applying for federal and state benefits easier for veterans and eligible family members. The staff at Hays and Emporia have partnered with many organizations and businesses in the last four years to assist veterans all over the state. We have provided top-notch veteran advocacy at fairs, parades, sporting events, and other locations throughout the State of Kansas.



The Emporia Mobile Office at the Sprint Campus in Overland Park



Veterans Day Parade in Leavenworth

If you have questions, or if you would like to schedule one of our vans for your event, please call the Program Supervisor, Eric Rohleder, (785) 260-3100 or email westksvsp@media-net.net. You can also download the form at the link below and email, fax, or mail it to the address or number listed on the form.

Events are scheduled on a priority first-come, first-serve basis with the many dates scheduled at least 45-60 days in advance. However, the KCVAO will make every effort to participate in your event if the date is available.

[Mobile Services Office Request Form](#)

[Mobile Office Schedule](#)

Kansas State Veteran Cemeteries



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Dodge



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Fort Riley



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at WaKeeney



Kansas Veterans' Cemetery at Winfield

Pre-registration form [KCVA 200](#)

VA-led Consortium Launches Brain Bank for Research on PTSD

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WASHINGTON - A consortium led by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has launched the first brain tissue bio repository (also known as a "brain bank") – to support research on the causes, progression and treatment of PTSD affecting Veterans.

The national brain bank will follow the health of enrolled participants during their lifetime. Participants in the brain bank will donate their brain and other body tissue after their death. The donated tissue, along with each Veteran's health information, will provide crucial information for use in research on PTSD and related disorders.

"Although we have learned a great deal about abnormalities in brain structure and function from brain imaging research, there is no substitute for looking at the neurons themselves," said consortium director Dr. Matthew Friedman. "Understanding the cellular and circuit contributions to abnormal brain activity in PTSD is critical in the search for potential biomarkers of susceptibility, illness and treatment response and for developing new treatments targeting the conditions at the cellular level."

Dr. Friedman also is the founder of the national brain bank, and former Executive Director and current Senior Advisor to the National Center for PTSD. The national brain bank will investigate the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue in order to advance the scientific knowledge of PTSD, particularly the identification of PTSD biomarkers. Participating sites are located at VA medical centers in Boston, Massachusetts, San Antonio, Texas, West Haven, Connecticut, and White River Junction, Vermont, along with the

Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences at Bethesda, Maryland (USUHS).

PTSD is a significant mental health concern among Veterans. In 2013, 533,720 Veterans with primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD received treatment at VA medical centers and clinics. PTSD is a serious mental disorder resulting from exposure to direct or indirect threat of death, serious injury or physical violence, including sexual violence.

The national brain bank is seeking Veterans with PTSD to participate in research about PTSD that affects Veterans. Veterans without PTSD are also eligible to participate in the brain bank because it is important to study Veterans without PTSD to compare the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue. Veterans interested in learning more about enrolling in the brain bank are encouraged to call its toll-free number 1-800-762-6609 or visit its website: http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tissue_banking/PTSD/default.cfm



SPECIAL NOTICE:

If you are a veteran in
emotional crisis and need help
RIGHT NOW,
call this toll-free number
1-800-273-8255, available 24/7,

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals, Effective Immediately

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. The updated regulation will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist individuals entering VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

“As I have traveled to VA facilities throughout the country, I have heard from many Veterans about what a vital role their service animals play in their lives,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “The revised regulation will ensure Veterans and employees have clear guidance regarding the presence of service animals in our facilities. VA remains committed to ensuring America’s Veterans have access to the health care benefits for which they are eligible.”

Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised.

In accordance with required practices, the revised regulation was published in the Federal Register in November 2014, to obtain feedback from Veterans, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders.

Over the next thirty days, VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation.



New \$1 Veterans Ticket Supports State Veterans Programs

The Kansas Lottery has launched a new \$1 instant scratch game, the proceeds of which are directed to programs that assist Kansas military veterans. Tickets in the new 7/11/21 game sell for \$1 each. Players have a chance to win hundreds of thousands of instant prizes in the game, ranging from a free ticket to \$2,100. Overall odds of winning are 1 in 4.08.

Veterans games, which currently include the \$2 game Super Stars and Stripes and the \$1 Red, White & Blue game, as well as the 7/11/21 game, are like any other Kansas Lottery instant games in terms of odds and prize payouts. The only difference is that proceeds from these games are directed to Kansas Veterans programs.

The Kansas Lottery is in its 13th year of generating direct revenue for programs that help Kansas military veterans. Since the legislation authorizing Veterans Benefit games was passed in 2003, the Lottery has transferred nearly \$13.6 million from the sales of these games, including \$1.6 million in Fiscal Year 2015. Current beneficiaries of proceeds from Veterans tickets are:

- 30% - Veterans Enhanced Service Delivery Program
- 40% - Kansas National Guard Education Assistance Scholarships
- 30% - Kansas Veteran Homes and Cemeteries

The Kansas Lottery encourages you to support Kansas Veterans by asking for Veterans games when you purchase instant scratch tickets at your favorite lottery retailer.

For more information on the Kansas Lottery Veterans games and the programs they support, please click on [Veterans games](#) on the Kansas Lottery website.



The Mobile Delivery Program Mobile Office Schedule

EVENT	DATES		HOURS		LOCATION	CITY
	FROM	TO	FROM	TO		
KU information Fair (H)	Sep 15	Sep 15	12 pm	1 pm	KU Campus	Lawrence
Sunflower Fair (H)	Sep 22	Sep 22	8 am	4 pm	Bicentennial Center	Salina
American Legion Revitalization (H)	Sep 26	Sep 26	1 pm	3 pm	American Legion Post 47	Dodge City
Veterans Pow-Wow (E)	Sep 26	Sep	12 pm	9:30 pm	Prairie Peoples Park	PBP Nation Reservation
Mobility Rodeo	Oct 2	Oct 2	10 am	6 pm	Kansas Truck Mobility	Wichita
American Legion Revitalization Event (E)	Oct 3	Oct 3	1 pm	3 pm	American Legion Post 68	Hutchison
WKMA 3i Show (H)	Oct 8	Oct 10	8 am	4 pm	Western State Bank Expo Center	Dodge City
American Legion Revitalization Event (E)	Oct 17	Oct 17	1 pm	3 pm	American Legion Post 407	Lenexa
Fall Health Fair	Oct 24	Oct 24	8 am	11 am	Hospital	Minneola
American Legion Revitalization Event (E)	Oct 24	Oct 24	1 pm	3 pm	American Legion Post 408	Derby

For information on VA Education Benefits click on the links below

[VA Education Benefits](#)

[How To Use Your Education Benefits Brochure](#)

For information on the State Approving Agency Process click the link below

[SAA Approval Process](#)



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